



City of New Bedford
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

City of New Bedford
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

NEW BEDFORD INTER AGENCY HOUSING TASK FORCE BEGINS DEMOLITION AND RELEASES REPORT

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NEW BEDFORD MA – New Bedford Mayor Scott Lang spoke today at the demolition of the first property the city has demolished through the efforts of the Mayor’s Inter Agency Housing Task Force. The contractor for demolition, Jay-Mor Enterprises Inc. of Pelham, New Hampshire, was on site to begin demolition.

The demolition of 721 South First Street is part of an overall citywide strategy to address abandoned and blighted properties. The city, utilizing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, has targeted four abandoned buildings that have been a blighting influence on the surrounding neighborhoods. In addition to the 721 South First Street property, the city has plans to demolish properties located at 1537 Acushnet Avenue, 521 Purchase Street, and 56 Cove Street.

The Mayor’s Housing Task Force was formed in 2006 to address abandoned and distressed properties in New Bedford. The Task Force, coordinated through the Office of Housing and Community Development, is comprised of City of New Bedford Departments and the Attorney General’s Office and includes a Citizens Advisory Committee. Along with the demolition, the Task Force is releasing the Mayor’s Housing Task Force Report to the community describing the achievements of the past year: These achievements include:

- The creation of a comprehensive list of “most wanted” tax title properties—those structures that are severely distressed and pose a health or safety risk;
- The return of 35 properties back to the City’s tax rolls through the tax title process (a total assessed value of \$4,513,500). In addition, \$2,393,650 in overdue tax payments have been collected;
- The sale of 16 tax title properties to adjacent property owners through the Abutters Lot Program and the preparation of Requests for Proposals for four properties with structures suitable for rehabilitation;
- A seminar attended by over 120 landlords to explain what is expected from New Bedford property owners and to clarify property owners’ rights and responsibilities.

The Inter Agency Housing Task Force Report is available on the City's website at www.ci.new-bedford.ma.us.

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PROPERTIES TARGETED FOR DEMOLITION



56 COVE STREET



521 PURCHASE STREET

PROPERTIES TARGETED FOR DEMOLITION



721 SOUTH FIRST STREET



1537 ACUSHNET AVENUE